

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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REPORT

TOPIC 1. Tank Shipments at the Holcubkov Railroad Station
2. Construction of a Fuel Depot North of Pilsen

50X1-HUM

EVALUATION

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DATE OF CONTEM

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 28 August 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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Tank Shipments.

1. Beginning in late 1950, tanks were loaded at the Holcubkov railroad station, 6 km northwest of Strasice (N 50/L 34), at irregular intervals until the end of February 1951. Six trains were loaded within one week in February. The tanks were always loaded at dusk, with the trains usually consisting of 14 Rady Pa-type and Rady Pv-type flatcars each. The Rady Pa-type is a four-axle heavy-duty flatbed car for loads of up to 80 tons, while the Rady Pv-car is an even heavier type. One or two tanks were loaded on each of these cars. The railroad station and the road leading to Strasice were cordoned off by soldiers during these loading operations which were performed under the supervision of a lieutenant colonel. The trains departed about midnight, heading toward Prague.

2. The tanks on the trains were covered with canvas to conceal their contours. They were of a light and a heavy type, but not T-34 tanks, since the gun barrels of the tanks observed were only half as long as those of the T-34 type. Some of the tanks bore a red-blue-white cockade.

3. Before the departure, all train conductors, [redacted] on several occasions were pledged to strict secrecy by the lieutenant colonel mentioned above. They received a sealed envelope which was not to be opened and which upon arrival in Prague-Vrsovice, was to be handed over to the traffic superintendent.

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Construction of a Fuel Depot.

4. In late May 1951, a fuel depot was under construction in the woods about 2 km south of Trenosna (N 50/L 05), west of the railroad line from Pilsen (N 50/L 04), near the Orlik railroad station. Six fuel containers, 12 meters long and 2 meters in diameter, which [redacted] were to be buried in the woods, were lying at the railroad station. Shipments of fuel containers to the same railroad station had also been observed in the summer of 1950. Trees were cleared about 100 meters east of the railroad line to prepare the ground for construction.

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[Redacted] Comment. The process of loading and the train movements are not suggestive of troop shipments. It is possible that the shipments contained new tanks or repaired tanks which had been test-fired at the training area near Strasice and were then transported to the military posts of tank units. The loading station at Moloubkov is situated at the perimeter of the Strasice troop training grounds.

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